

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, US, UR, PINR, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT FIRST SECTION EVANS AND NOVAK OP-ED
COLUMN WASHINGTON POST MONDAY APRIL 26 HEADED "BOMBARDING
THE EMBASSY AGAIN."

2. THE SOVIET UNION HAS RESUMED FULL-SCALE MICROWAVE BOMB-
BARDMENT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AT A LEVEL UNSAFE
FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL--AN UNANNOUNCED MOVE SPELLING FAILURE
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO SMOOTH
OVER AN EXCEEDINGLY UGLY DISPUTE THROUGH "QUIET DIPLOMACY.,

3. AS WE REPORTED A MONTH AGO, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION
EARLY THIS YEAR SECRETLY REMOVED SOME ELECTRONICS INTELLI-
GENCE EQUIPMENT FROM THE EMBASSY ROOF IN RETURN FOR RE-
DUCED SOVIET MICROWAVE BOMBARDMENT. IT WORKED--FOR A WHILE.
THE BOMBARDMENT, OBVIOUSLY A COUNTERMEASURE AGAINST U.S.
ELECTRONIC SPYING, WAS REDUCED IN DURATION AND INTENSITY.
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BUT WITHIN THE LAST MONTH, THE RUSSIANS RETURNED TO AROUND-

THE-CLOCK, FULL-FORCE MICROWAVE BOMBARDMENT.

4. THIS PROBABLY CREATES ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION AT THE EMBASSY HIGHER THAN MAXIMUM SAFETY LEVELS, CAUSING DR.

KISSINGER'S CRITICS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO. THESE OFFICIALS HAD FELT REMOVING SPY EQUIPMENT WAS A BLUNDER FROM ANY STANDPOINT. IF THE U.S. WERE REALLY CRIPPLING ITS INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY, THIS WOULD BE APPEASEMENT. IF THE U.S. WERE ONLY PRETENDING, THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT BE FOOLED FOR LONG.

5. IN FACT, THE LATTER MAY HAVE HAPPENED. OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE THE SOVIETS RESUMED MICROWAVE COUNTERMEASURES BECAUSE THEY CONCLUDED THE EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM THE ROOF WAS OF NO GREAT IMPORTANCE.

6. ACCORDINGLY, HARD-LINERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION FEEL NOW IS THE TIME FOR WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE ORIGINALLY: TO PUBLICLY DEMAND THAT THE KREMLIN FOLLOW CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR BY SHUTTING OFF THE MICROWAVE MACHINE.

7. WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS INNER CIRCLE IMMOBILIZED FOR NON-CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY BY RONALD REAGAN'S CHALLENGE, NOTHING IS BEING DONE ABOUT THE MOSCOW SITUATION. IRONICALLY, IF MR. FORD TOOK A HARD LINE, HE MIGHT SCORE AN EFFECTIVE COUNTERTHRUST AGAINST REAGAN'S PANAMA ATTACK.
(END TEXT.) SISCO

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